

# The New Direction Congress:

## Making America Safer

### Holding The Administration Accountable For The War In Iraq

Our men and women in uniform have performed their duties with courage, patriotism, and success. But after nearly five years of war, the American people know the cost has been too high: to life and limb, to our reputation in the world, to our military readiness, and to American taxpayers.

This war has not made the American people safer, our military stronger, or the region more stable. We must responsibly redeploy our troops so we can refocus on the real war on terrorism and rebuild our military readiness.



This New Direction Congress has changed the debate, making the Bush Administration more accountable for the execution of the war, and the Iraqi government more responsible for its own future. We have instituted vigorous oversight, uncovering tens of billions of dollars in waste, fraud, and abuse in spending in Iraq by companies like Blackwater and Halliburton. We believe the current policy in Iraq has failed and will only change when the President's allies in Congress hear the voices of the American people.

The 110th Congress has a clear mandate from the American people to work for a responsible redeployment of U.S. troops out of Iraq. Congressional oversight and legislative pressure have changed the debate in Washington by:

- ★ Requiring reporting from the Administration on the conduct of the war in Iraq, both militarily and in establishing a stable Iraqi government;
- ★ Supporting troops and military families with new funding for Mine-Resistant Armor Protected vehicles (MRAP) and addressing inadequate health care for our returning veterans;
- ★ Banning permanent American military bases in Iraq; and
- ★ Meeting equipment shortfall needs of the Army National Guard, strained in its domestic mission from heavy deployment to Iraq;

A series of measures have won passage in the House, but have been rejected by the President and his allies in Congress who help sustain vetoes. The President has rejected:

- ★ Setting a responsible timeline for phased redeployment of American troops; and
- ★ Enhancing national security and military readiness-as well as quality of life for military families-by requiring regular rotations out of combat zones and back home for rest and training.